

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /087 W

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R 231026Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0051

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6423

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TW, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT CHIANG RECEIVED MRS. EISAKU SATO
UNOFFICIALLY DENIED

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. LIEN HO PAO OCT 22 ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK
RE-

CEIVED MRS. EISAKU SATO, WIFE OF FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINIS-
TER, AT AUDIENCE IN PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE OCTOBER 21. LHP
ATTRIBUTED STORY TO SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CHANG CHUN WHO
BRIEFED REPORTERS AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO MRS. SATO'S DEPARTURE.
IF TRUE, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE WITH FOREIG
N
DIGNITARY SINCE JULY 1972.

2. NEITHER OFFICIAL CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY NOR OTHER CHINESE
PAPERS HAVE RUN STORY (THOUGH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS DID
SO, CAREFULLY ATTRIBUTING IT TO LIEN HO PAO).

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LIEN HO PAO HAS ISSUED NEITHER CORRECTION NOR RETRAC-

TION AND LHP VICE PRESIDENT YANG SHUANG-TANG TOLD EMBOFF THAT REPORTER WHO TALKED TO CHANG CHUN AT AIRPORT STANDS BY QUOTE THAT CHANG CHUN SAID PRESIDENT CHIANG RECEIVED MRS. SATO. ON THE OTHER HAND, LHP CITY EDITOR (CHANG TSO-JING) SAID REPORT WAS RESULT OF "MISUNDERSTANDING", SUBSEQUENTLY CORRECTED BY CHANG CHUN AND GIO.

3. GIO OFFICAL TELEPHONED EMBASSY LATE THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT " ACCORDING TO AUTHORITIES CONCERNED" MRS. SATO WAS RECEIVED AT PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE BY CHIANG CHING-KUO, NOT PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK. OFFICIAL SAID THAT GIO COULD NOT ITSELF ISSUE THIS STATEMENT, WOULD NOT ISSUE OFFICIAL DENIAL THAT PRESIDENT RECEIVED MRS. SATO, AND WOULD RESPOND "NO COMMENT" TO PRESS INQUIRIES.

4. COMMENT: APPARENTLY, EITHER CHANG CHUN MISPOKE OR REPORTER MISHEARD. THIS PARTICULAR PATTERN OF CONFUSION AND EVASION UNDERSCORES DIFFICULTY OF ROC ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF PRESIDENTIAL RECOVERY WHILE NOT PERMITTING ACCESS. FROM THAT STANDPOINT, GIO WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO HAVING WORD GET AROUND FROM NON-OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT MRS. SATO SAW GIMO AND HE WAS IN GOOD FORM. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT, IF ANYTHING, MRS. SATO SAID TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL IN TOKYO. FOR THE RECORD, SHE WAS HERE IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING AT LOCAL MUSEUM OF EXHIBITION OF MEMORABILIA OF LATE JAPANESE NOBEL LAUREATE, YASUNARI KAWABATA.

5. NEW TOPIC: APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND EMBASSY TOKYO CAN PROVIDE RE FORTHCOMING VISIT (OCT 30) OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER NOBUSUKE KISHI WHO, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, IS COMING TO "CELEBRATE GIMO'S 86TH BIRTHDAY." MCCAUGHY

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